



Switzer Learning Center

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Established in 1966 as a Tax Exempt 501 (c)(3) Nonprofit Corporation • Tax ID # 95-2458879

"Nurturing students of all abilities to believe, achieve, and thrive."

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Wendy White, Psy.D.

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Clinical Director

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MISSION STATEMENT

Nurturing students of
all learning abilities to
believe, achieve, and thrive!

March 14, 2019

Switzer Center

2201 Amapola Court

Torrance, CA 90501

BEN# 101487

John Nelson

Finance Director

Switzer Center

310-328-3611 ext. 335

RE: Waiver Request - Filing Window for E-Rate Form 471, Funding Year 2018-19

Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) instructed Switzer Center to appeal for a waiver from the FCC first before they would reopen our ability to File Form 471 for Funding Year 2018-19.

Statement of Relevant or Material Facts:

Switzer Learning Center is a private non-profit educational facility operating as a 501(c)(3) corporation since 1966, with a mission of "nurturing students of all abilities." We serve students in surrounding school districts of Central Los Angeles County unable to complete their education because of a special need or differences which separate them from the general student population. Switzer Center contracts with district partners to provide basic educational services along with related professional services, including counseling, speech therapy and one to one educational aids, for students diagnosed as falling on the Autism Spectrum or having some other special need.

Switzer Center has received subsidies under the Federal E-rate and CA Teleconnect programs since 2014, for Category One services only. Given our district partner's inability to increase the rates paid for our services during austere budgetary years, and in the face of increasing overhead and operational expenses, the Center has forgone improvements to its technology component for both staff and students. With recent new sources of foundational and corporate support, Switzer's Board began implementing a technology modernization plan last year, which includes a curriculum focused on teaching vocational and social skills useful in a new economy. Our plan anticipates the continued support of E-Rate and CA Teleconnect subsidies for Category One, and now, Category Two services.

On May 9th, 2018, Switzer filed Form 470 for Funding Year 2018-19 (Certified Form 470 attached). Our filing was for both Category One and Two services, and was beyond the window for such filing. We had just secured the commitments allowing us to proceed with implementing our technology modernization plan with a grant from three Foundations, including the Ahmanson Foundation. This timing aspect prevented us from filing by the normal Window deadline in March 2018.

We solicited bids and awarded a contract to TPx Communications in late June 2018, while under a 1 year extended auto-renewed contract with Birch dated 11/21/17. Installation was completed in late August 2018, with a formal porting request issued by our new provider to Birch on August 31, 2018 (see attached contract with TPx). Birch ported one of 8 lines on 8/31/18, but the remainder have still not been ported, leaving the school partially connected. Switzer is currently in dispute with Birch and has filed an informal complaint with the California Public Utility Commission with the expectation we'll have to formally complain after exhausting the informal process.

Statement of Relief:

Given Switzer Center's limited means and self-administrated E-rate application process, we respectfully request the window for filing Form 471 for funding year 2018-19 be reopened. And, if funding for FY 2018-19 has been depleted, that we be able to apply our FY 2018-19 Form 470 and bid solicitation and contract award to funding year 2019-20, with a similar waiver to file Form 471 for FY 2019-20.

Your dutiful attention to our mission and circumstances, in granting us this waiver, is appreciated.

John Nelson